

Parish Policy for Safeguarding Children and Vulnerable Adults

The Parish of Whitehaven approved this policy at the Parochial Church Council meeting held on 20th March 2023. The Parish of Whitehaven has adopted the Safeguarding Policies & Guidance of the Church of England and the Carlisle Diocesan Safeguarding Policy.

Ethos Statement

The teaching of Christ establishes the special significance of every human being and especially the central place of children in the sight of God. Our church is committed to fulfil His law of love and to provide for the safety, wellbeing and proper development of all children, young people, and vulnerable adults in our care.

We will also properly equip and support those adults who work with and relate to them.

Parish Safeguarding Officer (PSO)

The PCC has appointed a PSO who will ensure the implementation of this policy and the diocesan policy for Safeguarding and make regular reports to the PCC and to the APCM.

The person appointed is:

Mrs Donna Louise Flitcroft,
36 Church Street, Moor Row, CA24 3JQ,
Tel 07736643255

Health and Safety Assessment

The PCC will ensure that an annual assessment takes place to ensure that every activity which it organises for children or vulnerable adults, on or off the premises, will provide proper safeguards to protect them from harm. The assessment will consider the premises, activities, procedures, equipment, staffing and all other issues which may affect the potential safety of staff and users. The PCC will require all workers to re-fresh their understanding of the diocesan Code of Conduct and Practice.

The PCC requires that every other organisation which uses its premises will regularly conduct a similar assessment

Insurance

The PCC will ensure that appropriate insurance (and third-party liability) cover exists for all participants in the activities that it organises.

The current policies are: Ecclesiastical:

Policy no:

P-0000290472/01 (St James Church)

P-0000290481/01 (St Nicholas Church)

04/XPG/0343800 (Parish Hall)

Details of the policies and the cover they provide are held by Miss J Nicolson.

The PCC requires that any individual or organisation using its premises will also provide adequate insurance cover.

Appointment of voluntary and paid staff who work with children, young people, and vulnerable adults

In accordance with the diocesan policy for Safer Recruitment, the PCC will ensure that all those who work with children, young people and vulnerable adults will be properly appointed, trained, and supervised. This will include:

When appointing new staff – before they begin their role

Appropriate Job Descriptions will be drawn up in advance;

- Interviews will be held;
- At least Two References will be sought and taken up;
- A Confidential declaration will be completed;

All new personnel will be required to undergo a DBS check prior to appointment

Existing staff –

- Will be given a written Job Description. If this was not done at the time of their original appointment, then any references which were obtained but not taken up will now be pursued;

Renew their DBS check every five years

All staff –

- Will receive regular in-service training

Will be properly supervised

Activities/Organisations

The PCC has approved the following activities/organisations:

St James' Bell Ringers

Mr R Last Tel. 01946 695418

Park Drive, Midgey, Whitehaven CA28 7RT

St Nicholas' Tower Cafe

Miss Jane Nicolson 01946 590803

20 Park Drive, Midgey, Whitehaven CA28 7RT

Parish of Whitehaven Church Choir

Sigrid H Leech 01946 693906

Earls Road, Bransty, CA28 6BB

Parish of Whitehaven Messy Church

Mrs Anna Jones. 01946 691195

Calder Avenue Whitehaven CA28 8AS

St James' Community Centre

Miss Jane Nicolson 01946 590803

20 Park Drive, Midgey, Whitehaven CA28 7RT

Parish of Whitehaven Mothers Union

Mrs Jan Whinn. 01946 62336

Grant Drive, Whitehaven. CA28 6JS

Allegations of Abuse

Allegations against anyone who attends any church activity will be fully and honestly dealt with. The Diocesan procedures will be followed, and all allegations will be taken seriously and recorded. The Diocesan Safeguarding Adviser (and in an emergency, Children’s Social Care, Adult Social Services or Police) will be contacted without delay, and all information will be shared.

Disclosures

Any person who makes a disclosure or allegation of abuse will be sensitively and appropriately dealt with, following the Diocese. Any adult to whom a disclosure is made will contact the Diocesan Safeguarding Adviser (DSA) and will follow his/her advice.

Suspicious

Any member of the Church who suspects that a child or vulnerable adult is being abused in any way whatsoever will immediately contact the DSA and follow his/her advice.

Confidentiality

Confidential information concerning any adult or child will be fully protected.

Complaints

Any complaint against any member of the Church will be dealt with in accordance to the Diocese’s current complaints procedure. If a complaint relates to the treatment of children or vulnerable adults, the Diocesan Safeguarding Adviser will be informed immediately.

Monitoring & Review

This policy will be reviewed annually as part of the PSO’s preparation for the annual report to the PCC. Archdeacons will discuss it every three years with parishes at their Visitations.

Incumbent

Churchwarden

Churchwarden

Date